

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent 6,411,273, herein "Nakamura") in view of Kuwabara et al. (U.S. Patent 6,507,332, herein "Kuwabara"); and Claims 14-21 were indicated as allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that Claims 14-21 are allowed.

The rejection of Claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakamura and Kuwabara is rendered moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-13.

Consequently, in light of the prior indication of allowed claims, the above discussion, and in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and this present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests an early action favorable to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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